

September 24, 2004

Attention!
2004 AYP Preliminary Results

To: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons
School Principals

From: Isaac R. Bryant, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services

Subject: Preliminary 2004 Adequate Yearly Progress Status for Grades 4, 8, and 11
under the *No Child Left Behind* Accountability Requirements

Preliminary 2004 adequate yearly progress (AYP) status is now available for New Jersey schools. The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has calculated AYP based on the 2004 cycle 1 assessment results and student test participation for grades 4, 8, and 11. Assessment results to calculate AYP were based on the NJ ASK 4, GEPA, and HSPA. See the attached *Key Points* for more specifics.

The attached *Preliminary Adequate Yearly Progress Status Under No Child Left Behind Accountability Requirements: 2004* are for the school(s) in your district that did not meet 2004 AYP, including those that met AYP with Safe Harbor. (For schools in early warning hold, that is, schools that made AYP in 2004 and not in 2003, this report is **not** included.) As required under the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) accountability standards, the reports indicate preliminary AYP status in total and disaggregated by subgroup. The reports show the number of indicators met out of the 40 required under the Single Accountability System. In the table listing all 40 indicators, a “yes” identifies which indicators were met, a “no” identifies those that were not met, and a dash (-) indicates the subgroup was not analyzed due to no students or the small number of students in that subgroup. Please note that for 2004, “Safe Harbor” is calculated for *all* schools including high schools.

The NCLB data conditions used for AYP calculations have been applied to the 2004 cycle 1 state assessment data. Specific information about the NCLB Accountability System is provided in the documents entitled *New Jersey Accountability Workbook* found at the following Web site: <http://www.nj.gov/njded/grants/nclb/workbookcover.htm> and *Understanding Accountability in New Jersey – 2004* at: <http://www.nj.gov/njded/grants/nclb/guidance/understanding.pdf>.

Cycle 1 student assessment data provided by the NJDOE Office of Evaluation and Assessment were used in the preliminary AYP calculations. The demographic data were obtained from information provided by the districts using the student test booklets. After the districts received their cycle 1 student assessment data in June 2004, they were given a time frame in which to submit student record changes to the Office of Evaluation and Assessment. These changes will be reflected in the cycle 2 data. Final AYP calculations will be based on cycle 2 data and the Alternate Proficiency Assessment (APA) results.

Under NCLB, Title I schools that missed AYP for one year, that is, for 2004 or 2003, are placed into "early warning" status. A school that did not make AYP for two consecutive years in the same content area is identified as a "school in need of improvement." ***School Improvement Status Summaries for schools that are identified as in need of improvement or early warning are attached along with an Information Sheet that provides a summary of the requirements for Title I schools.*** Also provided is a schedule of Title I sponsored training sessions for schools newly identified for improvement. More information on the requirements is available at the following NJDOE Web site: www.nj.gov/njded/grants/entitlement/nclb/nclbparallelpaperappforms.doc. Sanctions for Title I schools must be implemented during the current school year.

The NJDOE will be issuing information to the media and to the general public about the NCLB accountability requirements for the three assessment grades. At that time, a list of schools that did not meet 100% of the indicators will be released. The assessment data and the status report are considered public information and should be shared with your staff, board of education, and constituents.

The NJDOE appreciates your flexibility and support as we continue to implement the requirements of NCLB's accountability standards. If you have any questions about your preliminary AYP information or the accountability requirements, contact Suzanne Ochse, director, Office of Title I Program Planning and Accountability at (609) 943-4283.

IRB/SO

Attachments

c: Members, State Board of Education
William L. Librera
Dwight Pfennig
Senior Staff
Kathryn Forsyth
Erika Leak
Suzanne Ochse
Brian Robinson
Diane Schonyers
County Superintendent
LEE Group
Garden State Coalition of Schools